

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



April 9, 1999

ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 99-19

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

ALL COUNTY FAMILY PRESERVATION
AND SUPPORT PROGRAM
COORDINATORS

SUBJECT: FAMILY PRESERVATION AND
SUPPORT PROGRAM (FPSP)
THREE-YEAR PLAN GUIDELINES FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEARS
(FFY) 1999 THROUGH 2001

REFERENCE: FEBRUARY 21, 1995 COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS LETTER
REGARDING FPSP FIVE-YEAR PLAN GUIDELINES

ADOPTION AND SAFE FAMILIES ACT OF 1997 (PUBLIC LAW
105-89)

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-25-98 REGARDING
REAUTHORIZATION OF THE FAMILY PRESERVATION AND
SUPPORT PROGRAM

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- ☐ State Law Change
- ☒ Federal Law or Regulation
Change
- ☐ Court Order
- ☐ Clarification Requested by One
or More Counties
- ☒ Initiated by CDSS

The purpose of this letter is to transmit the FPSP three-year plan guidelines for the period FFY 1999 – 2001. Federal regulations (45 CFR 1355, 1357) require that a status report be provided on the last five-year period and that goals, objectives and related activities be described for the coming three-year period. Due to the three-year authorized federal funding of FPSP, counties will be asked to submit a new plan for services reflecting this three-year period.

The Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (Public Law 105-89) provides for the reauthorization and expansion of FPSP services. In addition to the current family preservation services and support services, two new service categories have been added: 1) Time-limited family reunification, and 2) Adoption promotion and support.

Family preservation services typically are designed to help families alleviate crises that might lead to out-of-home placement of children; maintain the safety of children in their own homes; support families preparing to reunify or adopt; and assist families in obtaining services and other supports necessary to address their multiple needs in a culturally sensitive manner. (If a child cannot be protected from harm without

placement or the family does not have adequate strengths on which to build, services to preserve that family when a child remains in the home are not appropriate.)

Family support services are primarily community-based preventive activities designed to alleviate stress and promote parental competencies and behaviors that will increase the ability of families to successfully nurture their children; enable families to use other resources and opportunities available in the community; and create supportive networks to enhance child-rearing abilities of parents and help compensate for the increased social isolation and vulnerability of families.

Time-limited family reunification services are services and activities that are provided to a child who is removed from the child's home and placed in a foster family home or a child care institution. These services are also for the parents or primary caregiver of such a child, in order to facilitate the reunification of the child safely and appropriately, but only during the 15-month period that begins on the date that the child is considered to have entered foster care. Time-limited family reunification services include individual, group and family counseling; inpatient, residential, or outpatient substance abuse treatment services; mental health services; assistance to address domestic violence; temporary child care and therapeutic services for families, including crisis nurseries; and transportation to and from any of the above services.

Adoption promotion and support services means services designed to encourage more adoptions out of the foster care system, when adoptions promote the best interests of children, including such activities as pre- and post-adoptive services designed to expedite the adoption process and support adoptive families.

Welfare and Institutions Code Section 16604, subsections (a) and (b), require that not less than 50 percent and not more than 75 percent of a county's FPSP funds be spent annually on family support services, and that not less than 25 percent and not more than 50 percent of a county's FPSP funds be spent annually on family preservation services. Additionally, CDSS suggests that counties should spend 20 percent of FPSP funds on time-limited family reunification services and/or adoptions promotion and support services. We are aware that some counties currently provide such services using existing FPSP funds, but they are likely claimed under Family Preservation or Family Support Identifier Numbers. We expect that counties who plan to continue these services will claim them under newly-created identifiers for the two new service categories, adoption promotion and support and time-limited family reunification. Separate Identifier Numbers for claiming under the two new service categories will be issued at a later date.

If the county does not plan to provide time-limited family reunification or adoption promotion and support services using FPSP funds as recommended, the plan must explain the rationale for not doing so and describe how these services will be/are delivered through child welfare services, adoptions or other sources of funding.

It is expected that California will receive an increase of 13 percent from FFY 1999 to FFY 2000 for the service period of October 1, 1999 to September 30, 2000. These funds will be allocated in September 1999. Another increase of 7.7 percent is

anticipated for the service period of October 1, 2000 to September 30, 2001 and will be allocated in September 2000.

The FPSP plan should be submitted to the CDSS no later than May 7, 1999. Counties are not precluded from submitting updates or revisions after that date. Please send the original and one copy of the plan to the following address:

Children's Services Operations Bureau
California Department of Social Services
744 P Street, M. S. 19-90
Sacramento, California 95814

If you have any questions regarding the enclosed materials, please contact your Children's Services Operations Bureau consultant at (916) 445-2832.

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed By Marjorie Kelly
On April 9, 1999***

MARJORIE KELLY, Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division

Enclosure

c: County Board of Supervisors

**FAMILY PRESERVATION AND SUPPORT PROGRAM
THREE-YEAR PLAN
FEDERAL FISCAL YEARS 1999 - 2001**

INSTRUCTIONS AND REQUESTED FORMAT

Date:
County:
Contact Person:
Organization/Agency Name:
Address:
Telephone:
FAX:

PART I: STATUS REPORT ON THE FIRST FIVE YEARS (FFYs 1994-1998)

Describe the progress made by the county toward achieving goals developed during the period of the first five-year plan. At a minimum, the description should include the following:

- County FPSP vision statement.
- Each of the county's FPSP goals and objectives.
- The indicators tracked for each objective identified.
- The data collected and methodology used to collect the data for each indicator.
Specify parameters of data collection (e.g., data made available beginning June 1996 through December 1998).
- The conclusions/outcomes reached as a result of the evaluation of the data.

PART II: THE NEXT THREE-YEAR PERIOD (FFYs 1999-2001)

Provide a description of the county's plans for the next three years. At a minimum, the description should include the following:

- New three-year objectives that are realistic, specific, quantifiable, measurable and focus on specific outcomes for children and families.
- Information about how the quality of FPSP services provided will be regularly assessed and how identified problems will be addressed.
- Planned collaborative efforts, including the identification of local planning bodies and the collaborative processes that will be used.
- Methods that will be used to measure results, accomplishments, and annual progress toward meeting objectives, including processes and procedures in place to assure production of valid and reliable data and information.

- The identification of FPSP activities for which technical assistance by counties to community organizations/agencies will be provided, including those activities that will support the county's goals and objectives.
- Planned staff development and training activities that will support the county's FPSP three-year goals and objectives.
- Baseline data that will be used for projecting outcomes/program planning for the future, including a description of how the county plans to evaluate the results of services provided and the county's progress toward achieving desired outcomes and accomplishing goals.
- The identification of services (family preservation, family support, time-limited family reunification, and adoptions promotion and support) to be funded under FPSP for the next three-year period, including the amounts to be spent on each service. If the county does not plan to provide time-limited family reunification or adoption promotion and support services using FPSP funds as recommended, explain the rationale for not doing so and describe how these services will be/are delivered through child welfare services, adoptions or other sources of funding. For questions regarding adoptions promotion and support activities in your county, call the Adoptions Initiative Bureau at (916) 322-4227.
- Target population and/or geographic areas for service, the rationale for selecting these areas and a description of how these services are linked to the county's goals and objectives.

APPROVAL BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Include a signed copy of a resolution by the Board of Supervisors approving the county's FPSP three-year plan. If you are unable to complete the formal approval process through the Board of Supervisors by May 7, 1999, you may submit the plan pending approval and stating the date of scheduled Board action.